

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 5, 2002

LB 814

consideration of AM2991.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, in light of the ruling, I would like to have the body suspend the rules so we can take this bill up, and LB 814. I think it's an important bill and Senator Beutler did say it may be the import...the most important bill for the cities of Lincoln and Omaha this year. We are dealing with a mandate. For the record, this does not affect my legislative district, because I don't have a municipality or city over \$10,000 (sic-10,000 population). That's why I said early on in my report, I am the messenger. I do think this is important. It's important for clean water, it's important for fairness. If we don't do this, then the burden shall fall on the property taxpayers of the state of Nebraska in those municipal areas, and that isn't fair. Just for example, let's take the U S Bank over here that we go to once in a while, the 20th floor. The runoff on that tract of land per square foot is not any different than a paved parking lot at the university. But they all contribute to runoff. But if it's placed on property taxes, I'm sure that building is going to pay a lot higher property taxes than a parking lot. And yet the contribution to...to the runoff problems in the municipal areas would be the same. I understand that there's about four sections of land being developed annually in the Omaha area. And at least one section of that is with roofs and concrete and impervious areas. We need to address this problem. It's a water quality problem, it's a water quantity problem. The reason ag land is exempted out is because, if you comply with the federal farm program, and you're using best management practices, they're not contributing any more to...to runoff than they did five, ten, fifty, or a hundred years ago. So the problem should lay with the property owners who are contributing to the problem. I do think this bill is necessary. I would hope the body would consent and grant the 30 votes to discuss this issue. I think to do otherwise would be irresponsible. And so I would ask for your...your vote so that we can take this matter up. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Cunningham.